



## Climate Change is Different from Any Other Issue

Climate change is different than any other issue that might demand our CSJ commitment because it is a moral imperative for every person on the planet. Our Congregational Chapter called us to prophetic action on “the crisis of Earth and global warming.” Pope Francis calls us to respond to this “emergency,” which is the greatest existential threat to civilization and to our planet today. We know that every living being depends on the health of Earth’s atmosphere for their health. We also know that our choices and actions contribute to the climate imbalance. For the sake of our dear neighbors and the Earth, which is a sacred gift, we must clean up after ourselves and “respond boldly” to this emergency.

Right now, we are being given the grace to help return the Earth’s atmospheric system to a healthier state and to support each other in taking action. Therefore, we believe that each of us can **dare to make significant and bold changes** to our lifestyle by reducing our use of fossil fuels and offsetting the carbon footprint of our daily lives, either by planting trees to absorb the pollution caused by our choices or by paying tree planting organizations to do this for us. The information below is a simple way for each of us to begin calculating our monthly footprint and making a difference.

### Respond boldly and creatively

1. Drastically reduce your monthly carbon footprint by
  - a. Reducing your auto travel,
  - b. Choosing alternatives to airplane travel whenever possible,
  - c. Mitigating your carbon footprint by using the information on the website <https://www.terrapass.com/carbon-footprint-calculator>. You can then give to Heifer International to plant the gift of trees <https://www.heifer.org/gift-catalog/caring-for-the-earth/gift-of-trees.html> or to your favorite carbon offset organization.
2. Increase your awareness of the victims of severe climate, those experiencing floods, droughts, severe storms, crop failures, displacement, and migration.
3. Pray with *Laudato Si'* by using the document “[Prayer and Action on Laudato Si'](#),” including in our prayer climate victims, climate activists, and climate deniers.
4. Call and write to elected officials on all issues that address our climate emergency.

*Congregational Chapter 2019 Draft Directional Statement*



Climate justice is social justice and, ultimately, racial justice issue because “the impacts of climate change are likely to be felt disproportionately by those who face socioeconomic inequalities” (Leiserowitz, A. & Akerlof, K.). Unifying love calls us to make difficult lifestyle choices and commitments so that we may contribute to restoring the health of the whole Earth Community.